

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-19, and 22 over Maeda et al. (U.S. 6,785,487; Maeda '487) in view of Maeda et al. (U.S. 6,567,627; Maeda '627). The Office Action asserts that Maeda '487 discloses all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 12, except for a multi-function OK button being configured to perform at least two function when the multi-function OK button receives an input. The Office Action, however, relies on Maeda '627 to allegedly disclose these elements of independent claims 1 and 12. Specifically, the Office Action, at page 3 asserts that the 'close' key disclosed by Maeda '627 corresponds to the multi-function OK button of the claims. The 'close' key of Maeda '627, however, does not perform the same functions as the multi-function OK button, including, for instance, enabling the inputted setting of the image forming condition and creating and displaying a shortcut button on the initial screen for redisplaying the setting screen on which the image forming condition was set, as recited by independent claim 1 and similarly by independent claim 12.

The Office Action asserts that the functions of the 'close' key of Maeda '627 correspond to the recited functions of the multi-function OK button. In particular, the Office Action appears to assert that "pressing the 'close' key B12, completes the allocation of consolidation functions with the setting of the 'basic 2' key K2 being '2 in 1', 'left staple' and 'dotted line,'" Maeda '627 at col. 7 lines 7-11, corresponds to the claimed function "enabling the inputted setting of the image forming condition," and that "displayed is a screen 5a which displays the selected name . . . on the 'basic 2' key K2,"

Maeda '627 at col. 7 lines 11-14, corresponds to the claimed function "creating and displaying a shortcut button." Applicant respectfully disagrees. At col. 6, line 25 - 35, Maeda '627 discloses "the operation of allocating functions and the like to the aforementioned shortcut keys . . . [W]hen the 'shortcut key registration' key B10 is pressed after the respective functions have been set to desired settings . . . the screen is switched to a shortcut key selection screen 8 for selecting the shortcut key to which the aforementioned settings are allocated." Maeda discloses that functions are "allocated" to a shortcut key after the desired settings have already been set. Therefore, pressing the 'close' key to complete the allocation of consolidation functions merely finalizes the allocation of functions to a shortcut key, but does not affect the previously entered desired settings in any way. Thus, completing the allocation of consolidation functions, as disclosed by Maeda '627, cannot correspond to "enabling the inputted setting of the image forming condition," as recited by independent claims 1 and 12.

The remainder of Maeda '627 also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above-described features of independent claims 1 and 12. Maeda '627 discloses that pressing the 'close' key B12 may have different results, depending upon the screen from which it is pressed. For instance, at col. 7, lines 42-44, Maeda '627 discloses that in the screen of FIG. 10, "by thereafter pressing the 'close' key B12, displayed is a name selection screen G2 as shown in FIG. 8.," and, as previously discussed, that in the screen of FIG. 8 pressing the 'close' key "completes the allocation of consolidation functions." Independent claims 1 and 12, however, recite that the multi-function OK button is configured to perform at least two functions when the multi-function OK button receives an input, the at least two functions including enabling the inputted setting of the image

forming condition and creating and displaying a shortcut button on the initial screen for redisplaying the setting screen on which the image forming condition was set. Maeda '627 does not disclose, teach, or suggest any circumstances or screens from which pressing the 'close' key has the claimed result of performing at least two functions, wherein the at least two functions include enabling the inputted setting of the image forming condition and creating and displaying a shortcut button on the initial screen for redisplaying the setting screen on which the image forming condition was set. Maeda '627, therefore, does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed multi-function OK button. Maeda '487 does not remedy this deficiency.

Therefore, because the cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 12, no prima facie case of obviousness is established. Claims 2-3, 5-12, 14-19, and 22 depend from claims 1 and 12, and are therefore also not obvious in view of the cited references.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 20 and 21 over Maeda '487 and Maeda '627 in view of Funaki (US 6,707,471). The Office Action cites Funaki because Funaki allegedly discloses a cancel button for specifying the cancellation of processing of entered data. Funaki, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, the above-described elements of independent claims 1 and 12 missing from Maeda '487 and Maeda '627. The cited references, therefore, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of dependent claims 20 and 21, and no prima facie case of obviousness is established.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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